

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 2633
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.08.2023

MONITORING OF NIRBHAYA FUND

2633. SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL:

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has devised any mechanism to monitor the utilization of Nirbhaya Fund allocated to States;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government conducts audits or evaluations to assess the utilization of Nirbhaya Fund; and
- (d) if so, the details of the under performing States under the said fund?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
(SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

(a) to (d): The Government of India had set up a dedicated fund called 'Nirbhaya Fund' for implementation of initiatives aimed at enhancing the safety and security for women in the country. An Empowered Committee (EC) of officers constituted under Nirbhaya Framework appraises and recommends the proposals for funding under Nirbhaya Fund in conjunction with the concerned Ministries/ Departments/ Implementing Agencies. After appraisal by the EC, the concerned Ministries/ Departments obtain approval of their respective competent financial authorities to release funds out of their respective budgets and implement the approved projects/ schemes directly or through States/ UTs/ Implementing Agencies, State/ UT-wise.

As per the provisions contained under the General Financial Rules, 2017, the accounts of the grantee institutions under Nirbhaya Fund are also subject to audit by the CAG and Internal audit of the Ministry/ Department-concerned from time to time. The Ministries/Departments continuously review the implementation of projects, throughout the Financial Year ensuring that the intended benefit of the scheme reaches the targeted beneficiaries. This is a regular monitoring and evaluation process adopted by each Ministry/Department. The Ministry of Women and Child Development, being the nodal Ministry reviews the progress of all projects under implementation under the Nirbhaya Fund in its quarterly Empowered Committee meetings. In these EC meetings, implementing agencies, that is, State Governments and Central Ministries are present, and projects are reviewed in detail. The Empowered Committee has met 4 times in 2020-21, 5 times in 2021-22 and 4 times in 2022-23. Meeting of the EC was last held on 24th July 2023.
